Monitoring profile – October 2016

SAMOA

Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
http://effectivecooperation.org

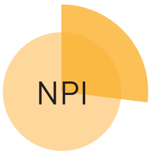
1. Country Context

A prime tourism destination among Pacific island states, the Independent State of Samoa is a lower middle-income country with a population of 193,000 (2015). Its two main islands and eight small islets have achieved a high human development. Samoa ranks 105th among the 188 countries reflected in the 2015 Human Development Index.

GDP growth has been modest but stable in the past five years, achieving 1.6% in 2015. Economic progress is spearheaded by manufacturing (mainly a major auto part plant and food processing facilities) and an expanding service sector driven mostly by tourism. Samoa is one of the Pacific lead voices at global arenas addressing climate change and facilitates a joint climate change pathway agreed with three other Pacific islands after a SIDS conference in 2014.

This monitoring round has captured the contributions of 20 providers amounting to USD$70 million in 2015. Within this highly diverse set of partners, the main six development partners (World Bank, China, Asian Development Bank, EU institutions, Australia and New Zealand) provide 87% of all development co-operation.

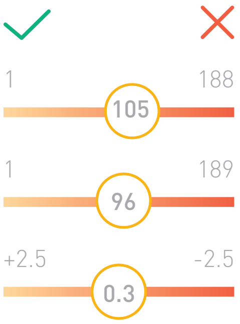
Key Development Indices:



National
Poverty Index
27% of pop.
(2008)

GINI Index
43 (2014)

ODA per Capita US$483 (year)

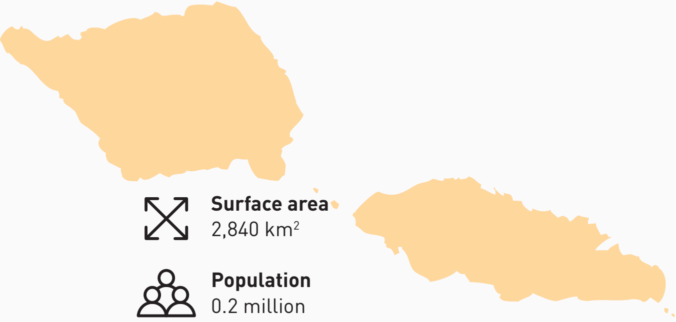


Human Development Index (2014)
(Best rank: Position 1)

Doing Business Rank (2015)
(Best rank: Position 1)

Anti-corruption Index: +0.3 (2014)
(Highest anti-corruption: +2.5)

Quick Facts



Surface area
2,840 km^2

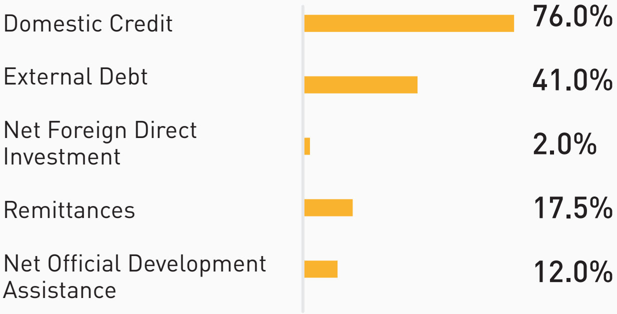
Population
0.2 million

GDP Growth 1.6% (2015)
GDP Per Capita US$3,939 (2015)

Income level category
Lower middle-income country

Inflows (% Gross Domestic Product)

LATEST YEAR AVAILABLE



Key Development Challenges

Samoa has advanced in building climate change policies, reducing basic needs poverty and enabling investments in key sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries and tourism. It is also active in pursuing youth employment and women's empowerment, as well as addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. For future sustainable development, Samoa needs to address rising inequality, ensure an adequate fiscal framework and continuously manage climate change risks, among other aspects, by accelerating the disaster resilience of the vulnerable.

2. *Efforts to Implement the Effectiveness Principles*

A. Policies and Tools for Partners' Alignment

Samoa's overarching development framework is reflected in the four-year Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS), which is currently being updated for the 2017-2021 period. Deriving from the SDS, there are 15 Sector Plans, each with a clear M&E and a sector-specific Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) aligned with the Medium-Term Financing Framework and the SDS. Results are being mapped in annual sector and SDS reviews. While updating the new SDS for the next four-year period, the Government of Samoa will fully localize and integrate the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development, based on an already completed mapping exercise.

Major Development Partners of this Round (by Reported Disbursements)

30%	World Bank
15%	China
13%	Asian Development Bank
13%	EU Institutions
11%	Australia

Yes

Participation in 2014 Monitoring

Yes

Existence of a National Co-operation Policy

B. Governance and Management of Development Finance and Co-operation

In support of SDS implementation, development partners are encouraged to meet the stipulations of the 2010 Samoa Development Co-operation Policy, reviewed in 2015. The policy is geared mainly towards capacity development, use of country systems as well as the expansion of budget support and sector-wide approaches (currently in water, health, education and climate change). There is a Joint Policy Matrix for budget support modalities. The government and co-operation partners meet on a quarterly basis for planning, monitoring and accountability purposes. Samoa participated in previous monitoring rounds and championed the 2010 Paris Declaration evaluation. As the main institutional arrangements, the Government of Samoa has the long-established Cabinet Development Committee (ministerial level) and an Aid Coordinating Committee (operational level), which enable ministerial coordination and pursue more effective development co-operation. Importantly, the sectors rely on their respective MTEF, which captures all actual development finance, including domestic and international financing. Within a simple official development finance management information system, the government captures all possible data, including from international CSOs (such as IUCN) and South-South partners such as China. Overall, Samoa has achieved an advanced, yet pragmatic setting for effective development co-operation, fully appreciated by its partners.

3. *Country Ownership*

Indicator 1: Partners' Alignment and Use of Country-Led Results Frameworks

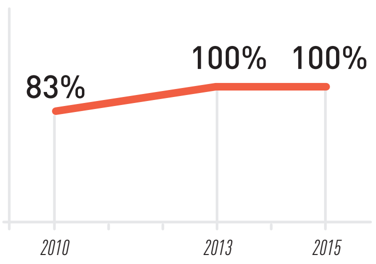
As the new SDS 2017-2021 is still in draft form, only a third of all development co-operation finance reported in 2015 is aligned to country-led objectives, results and monitoring systems. Indeed, only one development partner uses these country-led systems at this stage, underlining the importance of moving forward with the updated country planning and M&E systems, with particular attention to the practices and procedures at the sector levels.

Alignment in Objectives	33%
Alignment in Results	33%
Use of Government Data	33%
Joint Evaluations	100%

Indicator 6. Development Co-operation is on Budget (Subject to Parliamentary Scrutiny)

In 2015, development co-operation continued to be fully recorded in the government budget, demonstrating the consolidation of essential progress made in previous years. The government and development co-operation providers are strongly committed to ensuring the highest planning quality possible for parliamentarian oversight of public development finance to be strong and consistent. This ensures greater accountability and inclusiveness of all stakeholders. The Parliamentary Finance Committee scrutinizes the government budget before the budget goes to parliament for approval; a parliamentary committee requests regular updates on all programmes for development cooperation.

Percentage on Budget



Indicators 9 and 10. Use of Country Systems

Eighty-one percent of development co-operation reported for this year's monitoring exercise uses national procedures for budget execution, financial reporting, auditing and procurement. Since 2011, this means a sensible drop for budget execution (was 100%), but also a significant increase for all other parallel systems (was 65%). All major partners use national Public Financial Management (PFM) systems extensively, with the exceptions of China and Japan, which are examples of programmes that still have tied official development finance. Over the past years, the Government of Samoa has invested heavily in its PFM capacities. Among other initiatives, it conducted PEFAs in 2010 and 2013, a debt management assessment and a procurement assessment. The oversight role of parliament has been strengthened and medium-term expenditure and fiscal frameworks have been launched, both running in parallel with national development planning. Samoa's value under the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) has dropped slightly to 3.5 from 4.0.

	Budget (ideal: 100%)	Financial Reporting (ideal: 100%)	Auditing (ideal: 100%)	Procurement (ideal: 100%)	CPIA* (maximum: 6)	Untying (ideal: 100%)
INDICATOR 9B.	81% ▼	81% ▲	81% ▲	81% ▲		
INDICATORS 9A & 10.					3.5 ▶	79% ▼

* Country Policy and Institutional Assessment

4. Inclusive Partnerships for Development

Indicators 2 and 3. Fostering Inclusive Partnerships for Development

Civil society organizations (CSOs) and private companies are part of national development planning, implementation and accountability, their level of engagement commensurate with their capacities. Most national CSOs are part of the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO) and the government has made essential progress to enable their role, for instance by having CSO representation in the Cabinet Development Committee, Sector Advisory Committees and all other relevant technical sub-committees. As a joint effort by government and partners, the Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP) provides financial resources and capacity development support for CSOs in a number of areas. On their end, private sector players' engagement is still incipient and not fully structured, even in the case of state-owned enterprises. Among main coordinating bodies, the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Industry Council are taking part in consultations for the SDS planning, as well as the government-led aid coordination entities. Among main strengths, Samoa has been able to advance in creating space for formal participation even at the cabinet level and generated financial and technical support to CSOs, while non-state actors are relatively well organized. Manifold opportunities emerge especially for the private sector, as sector plans capture all types of development finance, including investment. Key challenges remain in the area of capacities, resources and quality of the dialogue with the government. More can be done to further structure and streamline the procedures for inclusiveness, especially at the sector levels. Particularly CSOs need to improve their capacities to meaningfully engage in policy dialogue and decision-making.

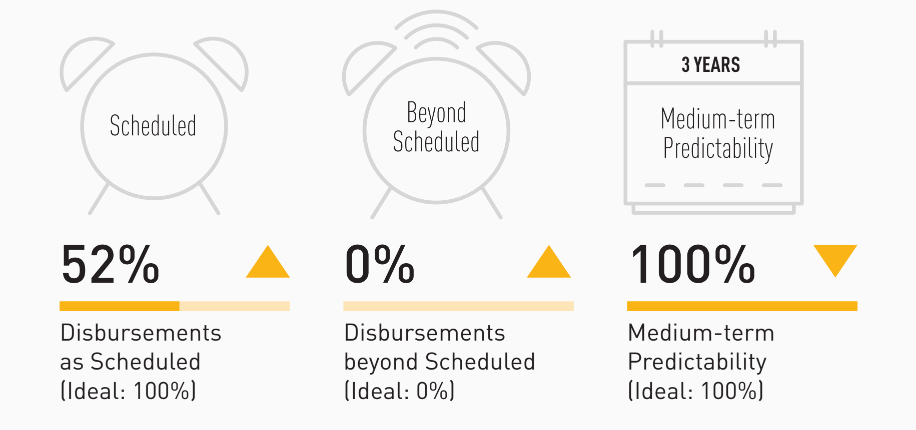
Indicator 8. Gender Empowerment

At this stage, the Government of Samoa is not tracking allocations for gender equality. However, gender-specific indicators and sex-disaggregated data are used in the sector-level plans. On this basis, gender-sensitive financial planning might be feasible in the near future. In this line, the Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development is looking into options for generating gender tags as part of national budgets.

5. Transparency and Accountability

Indicator 5. Development Co-operation is More Predictable

In 2015, Samoa faced an unsatisfactory annual predictability of 52%, a rather severe drop from 100% in 2013 and 99% in 2010. Only smaller development partners disbursed the amounts predicted by the national budget. All development partners report forward planned expenditure to the government resulting in 100% medium-term predictability. Capacity issues faced by government often result in slow delivery, thus affecting timely disbursements. Continuous dialogue and consistent efforts between government and partners are needed to address the existing challenges at the project implementation level, which will eventually have a cascading effect between budget planning and actual disbursements. Also, delays in implementation are often rooted in poorly designed technical assistance, which the government has pointed out on different occasions.



Indicator 7. Mutual Accountability

The government's Development Co-operation Policy from 2010 was reviewed in 2015 and will be further updated in line with the Global Partnership principles. Focusing on national priorities for more effective development co-operation, the policy constitutes a clear reference for joint progress and mutual accountability. The benchmarks of this framework are of particular value for addressing critical aspects such as the improvements needed to recover the previously outstanding annual and medium-term predictability. The results of the policy review will be a vital entry point for deepening mutual accountability in an evidence-based manner. Finally, this monitoring exercise constitutes another window of opportunity, especially vis-à-vis existing gaps in a number of fields requiring joint action on shared responsibilities.

National Priorities Going Forward

> “Samoa's national development priorities will continue to highlight the three pillars of sustainable development – as well there is a good balance of the alignment of the Key Result Areas of the draft SDS and the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs as well as the SAMOA Pathway. The implementation of the SDGs will be through the sector programmes under the corresponding Key Result Areas. The implementation of development co-operation particularly with regard to ODA is shifting away from a government-led process and will continue to add to the situation of lesser predictability, which will be further exacerbated by the fact that some partners are using international organizations and their own ministries to deliver their official development finance. Under these circumstances, the country is looking into ways by which it can further mobilize domestic resources for its development needs and further exploring how trade can be encouraged to address development needs. Our institutional capacities are limited and there is a high turnover of skilled people. We need to be more astute in determining priorities and their implementation needs to be tailored to national capacities and only request for technical support that is not available nationally. The procedures for development partners' engagement have to be simplified and the monitoring of results will continue.”

Lita Lui, National Coordinator
Ministry of Finance, Government of Samoa

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